THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) The total number of jobseekers (all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed) registered with employment exchanges as on 30-04-2009 was 384.9 lakh. As per the latest data available, the number of job-seekers possessing professional qualifications comprising graduate and post-graduate degrees in engineering, medicine, veterinary science, agriculture, law, education and others was 17.6 lakh as on 31.12.2006.

No comprehensive survey/study has been conducted so far, to assess the number of persons rendered jobless during 2008-09 and 2009-10 on account of global economic meltdown and recession. However, two quarterly surveys in quick succession on the effect of global economic meltdown on employment in India have been conducted by Labour Bureau, attached to this Ministry. According to its first report on "Effect of Economic Slowdown on Employment in India," which is based on a sample survey of 2,581 units in 20 centres conducted for the period October-December 2008, there was a decrease in employment of about 5 lakh workers during the quarter. The second survey conducted by the Labour Bureau for the period January to March 2009 covering 3,192 units in 21 centres, however, indicated marginal improvement in some of the selected sectors with employment rising by about 2.8 lakh during that quarter.

A sample survey conducted by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for 402 exporting units revealed job losses (direct and indirect) to the tune of 1,09,513 persons during August 2008 to mid-January 2009. Another sample study conducted earlier (for the period August-October 2008) by the Department of Commerce for 121 export-related companies belonging to several sectors, primarily employment-oriented sectors such as textiles including garments, leather, engineering, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, food and food processing, minerals, marine products has revealed loss of jobs of 65,507.

The action taken by the Government to mitigate the adverse impact of economic slowdown includes three stimulus packages, various measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India, enlargement in implementation of the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' wherein the insured worker and his family are entitled to about 50% of wages upto a period of one year (as against 6 months earlier) and medical benefits in case of loss of job. These measures seek to prevent large scale job losses and wage cuts and to mitigate the income loss on account of loss of employment. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes both for men and women notably National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which helped mitigate the impact of the meltdown.

Policy for maintenance of existing roads by NHAI

*372. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is preparing a policy for maintenance of existing roads during their four laning/six laning by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) if so, the details of said policy; and

(c) the reasons for which NHAI is not maintaining the Jaipur-Delhi Road (NH-8) to the prescribed standard?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The maintenance of existing roads is carried out by the contractors/Concessionaires as part of their obligations under contract/concession agreement to keep the existing roads in traffic worthy condition. In case of sections entrusted to NHAI where, 4/6 laning has not yet started, the maintenance of existing roads is carried out by the NHAI directly or through State Public Works Departments (PWDs). Maintenance of completed highways is generally carried out through Operation & Maintenance Contracts.

(c) NHAI has awarded concession rights to M/s. ETA Dubai-KMC, Joint Venture (JV) for 6 laning of existing 4 lane highway between Gurgaon and Jaipur on NH 8 (total length 225.60 km). As per concession agreement M/s. ETA Dubai-KMC, JV has taken up maintenance of said stretch from 03.04.2009 (appointed date). Concessionaire has already taken up maintenance activities and started addressing all issues/grievances received regarding maintenance. NHAI has directed the concessionaire to keep the stretch in traffic worthy condition as per the prescribed standards.

Effect of economic slowdown on Indian textiles industry

*373. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian textiles industry has been badly affected by global economic slowdown;

(b) if so, details of affected textile mills across country;

(c) whether slowdown has derailed its efforts to significantly increase its global market share through planned technology and capacity expansion;

(d) if so, whether a separate package, containing fiscal and non-fiscal steps, was vital to support industry's efforts to raise job levels and share in global market;

(e) if so, to what extent the present budget would help industry to grow;

(f) whether all demands of the sector have been considered; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) There is a marginal decline in exports and production of textile items as per details given below:

Year	Exports	Production	
	(in billion US$)	Yarn	Cloth
		(million kg.)	(in million square meter)
2006-07	19.14	5,184	53,389
2007-08	22.13	5,512	56,025
2008-09	18.52	5,328	54,966
(Provisional)	(April – February)	(April – March)	(April — March)
% age decline*	5.31	3.34	2.07

(*in 2008-09 over corresponding period of 2007-08)